



ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Public Health and Sanitary Condition

OF THE

Urban District of Linslade,

FOR THE YEAR

1920,

BY

C. M. L. COWPER,

Medical Officer of Health.

TO THE

Urban District Council

OF

Linslade.

I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1920.

THE POPULATION

according to the 1911 census was 2,262.

BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATE.

Fifty-one births were registered.
This gives a birth rate of 22.5.

DEATHS AND DEATH RATE.

Nineteen deaths were registered in the district. To these must be added two deaths of residents not registered in the district, while five deaths were those of non-residents.

The resulting number of deaths is sixteen, giving a death rate of 7.0.

MEASURES RELATING TO CHILD AND MATERNITY WELFARE.

The Infant Welfare Centre is held twice a month at the Forster Institute. Some twenty-eight names are at present on the list, and all attend regularly. The mothers obtain great benefit from the fortnightly lectures, and in a written examination for the whole county held last summer, the Linslade representatives tied for first place.

Naturally, without some power of compulsion, it is impossible to assure the presence of all the infants in the district, and it is, unfortunately, those who most stand in need of the instruction and help so freely given at the Centre, who will not avail themselves of it.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

This year there have been nine cases of Zymotic Disease notified, but six of these were cases of scarlet fever occurring on two barges on the canal, which arrived together early in January, and all of which developed within 48 hours of arrival, so they can hardly be said to be local cases at all.

There was one mild case of Diphtheria and two cases of Malaria in demobilised soldiers.

NUISANCES.

In three cases unsound fish arriving at the railway station, chiefly for sale in Leighton Buzzard Market, was reported. They were voluntarily surrendered and at once buried.

Twenty-nine complaints were received and thirty-five others were detected without complaint, and all were abated by the persons responsible.

New drains were laid in four cases.

CONSUMPTION.

No case of consumption was notified.

OVER 65 YEARS.

Of the total number of deaths, eight were over 65 years of age.

METHODS OF DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diseases notified under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, are isolated at home, if this can be done with safety. If not, they are removed to the Grove Isolation Hospital, jointly owned by the Wing Rural and Linslade Urban Districts.

It is situated in the Wing District and consists of modern and up-to-date buildings in three blocks together with the Matron's house, which is quite separate from either block.

Three different diseases can be received, isolated and nursed at the same time.

There are eight permanent beds in both the enteric and scarlet fever wards and four in the diphtheria ward, but there is ample space to add more in case of necessity.

After recovery, or removal of the patient to the Hospital, the infected premises are disinfected, under the supervision of Mr. Platten, Sanitary Inspector.

Formalin fumigation is used, and the floors cleansed with suitable disinfectants. Personal effects and bedding are sent to the steam disinfecter at Grove Hospital. Arrangements have been made with the medical authorities to take other patients, such as soldiers billeted in the district, suffering from infectious diseases, for disinfecting and bathing; also for cleaning and disinfecting clothes and bedding.

CHIEF OCCUPATIONS OF INHABITANTS AND INFLUENCE OF HEALTH.

The absence of unhealthy occupations doubtless contributes to the good health of the district and makes it specially suitable for a residential town.

In addition to the ordinary occupations incidental to a country town in an agricultural district, a considerable number of men find regular employment at the London and North Western Railway Station, Morgan's Carriage, Motor and Engineering Works, Yirrell's builders' yard and premises, printing works, a mill for the manufacture of feeding stuffs for cattle, and premises for building and repairing canal boats.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are none.

WATER SUPPLY.

is good and abundant. From a deep well the water is pumped to the top of a hill of sufficient elevation above the town level, and distributed by gravitation. It is cleared by sand, the sand being changed as required.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Plans have just been passed for Bossington House to be connected with the main sewer, so from the time this work is finished, every house in the district except outlying cottages will be thus connected.

The system in use in the district is a most modern and up-to-date one; the sewage is pumped to the top of a hill above the level of the rest of the district by a pump situated at the canal side behind Morgan's Works, from there it descends by gravity to the outfall works at the northern end of the district. There are two tanks which can be used either together or independently, and after preliminary clearing in these the sewage is distributed over filter beds made of clinkers, of which there are four, two working at a time, by an automatically revolving distributor; after running through the filter beds, the effluent passes by means of cement gutters under the canal and into the river.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No complaints have been received this year.

HOUSE REFUSE.

is still removed by contract, and that which cannot be burned is deposited on the Council's land at the Sewage Pumping Station and buried.

This method has proved, so far, satisfactory, and additional land has been purchased, which will be adequate for some time.

MILK SUPPLY, MILK SHOPS, DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

The milk supply is obtained from the farms in the district, and milk carts from Leighton Buzzard. There is one cowshed well supplied with light, ventilation and floor drainage, and with plenty of cubic space per cow; also good drinking water for cows. No action regarding unwholesome milk, tuberculous or otherwise, has been found necessary during the year.

The Linslade Council retains the services of a Veterinary Inspector for the district.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There is only one in the district. It is frequently inspected, regularly limewashed, and is in good condition, with suitable arrangements for flushing purposes.

BAKEHOUSES.

Only one, which is regularly inspected, limewashed, and in accordance with all requirements.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Morgan's Carriage and Motor Works. They have been very considerably enlarged of late, They are modern buildings, roomy, well lighted and ventilated, supplied with sufficient sanitary conveniences and equipped with automatically closing fireproof doors.

Brantom's Mills for corn crushing, manufacture of feeding stuffs for cattle, etc., also in good condition, with plenty of room, light and ventilation.

Printing Works.—A comparatively new building, first constructed for a Brewery, altered and fitted up for its present purpose.

Premises for building and repairing canal boats, situated beside the canal and in good order.

There are twelve workshops, including the bakehouse previously mentioned, all being for the ordinary trades of a small town, such as dressmaking, tailoring, forges, hand laundries, etc. No defects were found.

OUTWORKERS.

The name of one outworker engaged in the urban district of Westminster has been received.

SCHOOLS.

Are three in number.

1. The New Boys' School. Lofty, well-ventilated and up-to-date in school architecture. The approach to this school has recently been improved by several cart loads of clinkers being put down, but this must be only a temporary

measure, and the whole approach should shortly be permanently improved in order to render it clean and dry for the boys attending the school.

2. The Stoke Road Council Girl's School. A good roomy, well-lighted and ventilated building of which the sanitary condition is good.

3. The Council Infants' School. Previously used for both girls and infants, now only for the latter, for which it is certainly better suited on account of the smaller number of children. All previous objections are now non-existent.

SERA, VACCINES, ETC.

Anti-diphtheria serum is supplied free of charge by the Council by arrangements with the local chemists, and anti-influenza serum can be obtained from the Medical Officer of Health, also free of charge in the event of an epidemic occurring.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION—ESPECIALLY WORKING CLASSES: ITS ADEQUACY AND FITNESS FOR HABITATION.

There is some scarcity of accommodation, although a good many new houses suitable for the artisan and working classes have been built in recent years. Most of the houses have plenty of open space, plots of garden and clean surroundings.

Steps are being taken to erect six new houses, but after considerable negotiations and many visits by the Housing Commissioner, no site, which will earn his approval, has yet been found.

The Council exercises strict supervision over the erection of new houses. All plans are submitted to the Council and occupation is not permitted until all Bye-laws have been conformed to, and efficient sanitary arrangements carried out.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. M. L. COWPER,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of whole District during 1920 & previous years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Unrecor. No.	Nett.				of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under One Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.			Number.	Rate.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1914	2262	38	38	16.79	31	13.70	1	1	3	78.94	31	13.70
1915	2262	43	43	19.1	31	13.70		6	2	46.51	31	13.70
1916	2262	39	39	17.24	30	13.26	1	6	3	77.	30	13.26
1917	2262	35	35	15.46	24	10.61		2			24	10.61
1918	2262	34	34	15.03	34	15.03		4	1	29.41	38	16.79
1919	2262	28	28	12.36	24	10.61	1	1	3	107.01	24	10.61
1920	2262	51	51	22.5	19	8.3	5	2	2	39.21	16	7.0

Area of District in acres
(land and inland water)

1,693.

Total population at all ages
Number of inhabited houses
Average number of persons per house

2262
560
4

At Census,
1911.

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1920.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.							Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 & upwards	
Small-pox								
Cholera								
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	I	...	..	I	...	...	...
Erysipelas								
Scarlet Fever	6	2	2	I	I	...	...
Typhus Fever ...								
Enteric Fever.....								
Relapsing Fever ...								
Continued Fever ...								
Puerperal Fever ...								
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.....								
Poliomyelitis								
Measles and German Measles								
Pulmonary Tuberculosis								
Other forms of Tuberculosis.....								
Malaria	2	...	...	...	2	...	...
Totals.....	9	2	2	2	3	...	...

Grove Isolation Hospital, Grove.

Total available beds, 20.

Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 3.

TABLE III.

LINS LADE URBAN DISTRICT.—Causes of, and Ages at Death during the year 1920.

Causes of Death.		Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of " Residents " whether occurring in or beyond the District								
		All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
All Causes	{ Certified Uncert.	16	2				2	2	3	7
Enteric Fever										
Small-pox										
Measles										
Scarlet Fever										
Whooping Cough										
Diphtheria and Croup										
Influenza										
Erysipelas										
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)										
Tuberculous Meningitis										
Other Tuberculous Diseases		2						1	1	
Cancer, malignant Disease										
Rheumatic Fever										
Meningitis										
Organic Heart Disease...		3	1				1			1
Bronchitis		1								1
Pneumonia (all forms) ...		1	1							
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs										
Diarrhoea and Enteritis										
Appendicitis & Typhlitis										
Cirrhosis of Liver										
Alcoholism										
Nephritis and Bright's Disease										
Puerperal Fever...										
Other Accidents and Di- seases of Pregnancy and Parturition										
Congenital Debility and Malformation, in- cluding Premature Birth										
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide										
Suicide										
Other Defined Diseases		6					1	1	2	2
Diseases ill-defined or unknown		3								3
Accidents...										
Totals		16	2				2	2	3	7

Linslade Urban District.—Infantile Mortality during the year 1920.
 Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1—2 weeks.	2—3 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1—3 months.	3—6 months.	6—9 months.	9—12 months	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes { Certified Uncertified									
{ Small-pox									
{ Chicken-pox									
{ Measles									
{ Scarlet Fever									
{ Whooping Cough									
{ Diphtheria : Croup									
Erysipelas									
{ Tuberculous Meningitis									
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis									
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases									
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)									
Convulsions									
Laryngitis... ..									
Bronchitis									
Pneumonia (all forms) ...						I			I
{ Diarrhoea									
{ Enteritis									
Gastritis									
Syphilis									
Rickets									
Suffocation, overlying ...									
Injury at Birth									
Atelectasis									
{ Congenital Malformations					I				I
{ Premature Birth									
{ Atrophy, Debility, and									
{ Marasmus									
Violence									
Other Causes									
Totals					I	I			2

Nett Births in the Year—Legitimate 50.

Illegitimate 1.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

INSPECTION.

Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	...	...	8
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	...	...	30
			—
		Total ...	38
			—

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register at the end of the year,					
including Bakehouse	12

OTHER MATTERS.

Underground Bakehouses	nil.
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C. M L. COWPER,

Medical Officer of Health.